

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Pending Claims*

New claims 101-104 have been added to describe the invention more clearly. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment, and the basis for the new claims may be found in the original specification, claims, and drawings. New claims 101-104 are supported at, for example, the specification at paragraphs [0047]-[0057]. After entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-63, and 99-104 are pending.

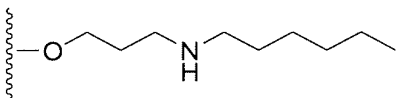
Entry of the above is respectfully requested.

*THE OFFICE ACTION**The Election of Species Restriction Requirement*

The Office Action asserts that the claims are directed to more than one species of the generic invention, and that the species are not so linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

*Election of Group and Species with Traverse*

In order to comply with the requirements of the Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants elect, *with traverse*, the species of the formula:



This species corresponds to the compound of formula I wherein:

- a is 3;
- a', a'', and a''' are all 0;
- b and b' are both 0;
- c is 0;
- d is 1;
- d' is 0;
- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are H at all occurrences;
- (R<sub>3</sub>)X is absent;

R<sub>4</sub> is H;

R<sub>6</sub> is C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

and the solid support is a cellulose bead.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 22, 23, 29-31, 33, 49, 52-54, 57, 99, 100, 102, and 103 are generic to (i.e., encompass) the elected species.

While Applicants have provided an election for the aforementioned species, the species election merely is intended to aid the Examiner in the search and examination of the instant patent application. The election is by no means indicative of Applicants' willingness to ultimately limit the invention to these species. Applicants understand that, consistent with an election of species requirement, other species will be considered within the "generic" claims encompassing the elected species upon an indication of allowable subject matter with respect to the elected species.

#### *Discussion of Restriction Requirement*

Under PCT Rule 13.2, a group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. PCT Rule 13.2 defines the term "special technical features" as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art (see MPEP 1893.03(d)). The claims encompassing the species are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. In other words, the claims of the invention share a common special technical feature, which defines the contribution that each claim makes over the prior art. It is to be noted that the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority does not consider the inventions defined by the claims to lack unity of invention.

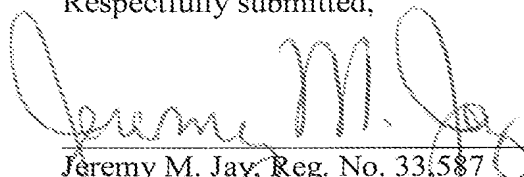
Given the special technical feature common to the claims, a search for prior art with respect to any of the species would likely uncover references that would be considered by the Examiner during the examination of the other species. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there would not be a serious burden on the Examiner if the species of the pending claims were searched together. The nature of the claims, and the subject matter encompassed by the claims, is such that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to consider all of the claims at the same time.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the species election requirement issued against the pending claims, and request that the Examiner examine together all of the species in the pending claims.

*Conclusion*

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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